

Store Per: Norwegian-American "Paul Bunyan" of the Prairie

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gion. The authors successfully overcame statistical barriers—different methods of collecting data (counties versus census divisions, for example)—to form appropriate points of comparison, but additional historical context would have increased their value. At least two thumbnail sketches of U.S. incorporation of its share of the Great Plains are provided, but no similar history of British/Canadian annexation was attempted. The 1848 U.S. treaty with Great Britain establishing the northern border from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast is mentioned, but not the 1818 agreement that settled the 49th Parallel boundary west across the grasslands to the Continental Divide. Canada's 1867 independence is acknowledged alongside a map of "Military Forts and Trading Posts, 1865–1900," but Canadian historians might take issue with the notion that "many of these forts were established in order to protect settlers from possible Native American attacks" (70). The authors explain the place French ancestry has in Canadian history but without regard to the métis population of mixed native and French ancestry, a distinct Canadian population category especially important to the grasslands. Still, the highly pleasurable "breakthrough" of this collection of insightful maps is not diminished by the user's desire for more.

Store Per: Norwegian-American "Paul Bunyan" of the Prairie, by Peter Tjernagel Harstad. Lakeville, MN: Jack Pine Press, 2011. xiv, 240 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Kathleen Stokker is professor of Scandinavian studies at Luther College. She is the author of *Remedies and Rituals: Folk Medicine in Norway and the New Land* (2007).

In *Store Per*, professionally trained historian Peter Tjernagel Harstad presents a well-documented and charmingly told tale of his great-grand-uncle, Peder Larson Tjernagel, more familiarly known as "Store Per" (Big Pete) because of his strength both in body and (as the story shows) character. In 1852 he emigrated from Norway to America at the age of 26. "A devout Christian and public spirited man," says Harstad, "he participated in the founding of a school and a church, built roads that intersected with Indian trails, and served as township trustee [thereby giving] notice that Norwegians were ready to assume responsibilities in their adopted country" (192–93).

Tracing Per's life from birth on Norway's west coast beside the Bomlø Fjord (halfway between Bergen and Stavanger), Harstad shows Per's realization as a young man that the life he wanted to live as an independent farmer and member of a church rooted in spiritual guid-

ance was no longer open to him in Norway. Finding that his cousin Malene shared similar goals, he married her and they struck out together for the New Land, where they faced cruel hardships and tragic loss, but also managed to rise from lowly farm laborers to influential agricultural entrepreneurs.

Harstad deftly interweaves a combination of well-chosen secondary sources and sometimes unique primary ones (such as the three eyewitness accounts written by Per's nephews). We follow the arduous emigrant voyage endured by the Tjernagel party and their continued journey to and eventual settlement in Scott Township, Hamilton County, Iowa. Supplementing his own family stories with information drawn from immigrant guidebooks (Ole Rynning's and Nathan Parker's) and current respected historians of immigration (including Odd Lovoll, Jon Gjerde and Alan Bogue), Harstad gives Per's story a rich texture and informative context that pleasurably initiates readers into the myriad economic, social, agricultural, industrial, and psychological factors that determined daily life in nineteenth-century Norway and Norwegian America.

Harstad manages, moreover, to engage readers' senses to make Per's story memorable: "As the Tjernagel party inched its way westward they heard a cacophony of languages emanating from other boats, met scores of east-bound grain boats, and heard swine squealing their way to market" (80). Drawings and maps help guide readers, as does an additional family document: a painting his ancestors commissioned 50 years after their immigrant journey that shows Per playing his violin to calm the nerves of his party as they sit, abandoned in the wilderness, surrounded by their immigrant trunks and apprehensively eyeing an approaching band of Indians.

Always welcome company with his fiddle playing and even-keeled personality, Store Per, as portrayed here by Harstad, is definitely a pleasure to meet and well worth knowing.

Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities, edited by Betty A. Bergland and Lori Ann Lahlum. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2011. xii, 356 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer L. DeAne Lagerquist is professor of religion at St. Olaf College. She is the author of *In America the Men Milk the Cows: Factors of Gender, Ethnicity and Religion in the Americanization of Norwegian-American Women* (1991).

The nine chapters in this fine collection are remarkable and welcome for their consistently excellent quality and the range of topics addressed.